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4 JAN 1965 Executive Registry 64-85

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT : Krulak Committee Paper on North Vietnam Operations

1. A recommendation for the approval of the Director of Central Intelligence is contained in paragraph 6.

2. Attached hereto is a paper produced by the committee under the direction of General Krulak. This paper recommends a three phase operational program against North Vietnam. The first phase, to commence on or about 1 February 1964, is to last approximately four months. The operations recommended for inclusion within this phase have been selected from CAS/MACV Plan 34A-64. These operations, which both Saigon Station and CINCPAC consider generally feasible for the four-month period cited above, are calculated to be the basis for more intensified anti-DRV operations to be launched in later phases. Saigon Station has noted that operations against four of the targets (targets 5, 11, 12 and 13) are contingent upon the arrival and full readiness of the Nasty class boats. Present scheduling would bring these craft to a full state of readiness by mid-May which would probably make it impossible for attacks against all four of the targets listed above to be launched by 1 June, when Phase I is tentatively scheduled to end. Phases II and III will not follow automatically after Phase I; they will be launched only after a thorough review of the DRV's reactions to Phase I operations. A study, prepared by the Office of National Estimates, as to the probable Communist and international reaction to the specific operations recommended in the paper, is also attached as Tab D.

3. The paper has been agreed upon only by the members of the Krulak Committee, and has not been referred in detail to top levels of CIA, Department of Defense or the State Department. In inter-committee deliberations, it was quite clear that State Department representatives did not wish to authorize any operations program largely different from that which CIA has had authority to continue for the last year. State Department opposition focused upon the three company attack on Tigre Island as well as on interdiction of Routes 7 and 8 leading into Laos. The latter two operations were dropped from the program at State Department suggestion but General Krulak insisted that the Tigre Island operation be included for higher policy level consideration. The State Department specifically dissented.

4. The question of command and control of North Vietnam operations was left aside in these committee deliberations as it was in the formulation of the original joint plan in Saigon. When this question

Vietnam

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arises, it is recommended that CIA pose no objection and indeed that we should view with approval any inclination on the part of the Department of Defense to take command of the operational program. CIA would wish to retain basic responsibility for the psychological programs, and would provide all appropriate support to all operations. Due to the complicated nature of North Vietnamese operations in which CIA often finds itself caught between opposing Department of Defense and State Department views, it is our judgement that there would be definite advantages to our being removed from command of the programs.

5. The operations in Phase I include all of CIA's on-going programs and a careful reading of the Krulak paper makes it clear that apart from the Tigre Island operation what is being put forward here is basically what CIA has had Special Group approval to do for some time.

6. It is recommended that the DCI propose that the Special Group approve the attached paper. If and when Special Group approval is received it can be sent forward for higher level concurrence.

/s/ William E. Colby

William E. Colby
Chief, Far East Division

cc: DDCI

CONCUR (Signed) [illegible] 6 JAN 64

Deputy Director for Plans

APPROVED

Director of Central Intelligence

[redacted] (4 Jan 64) (b)(3)

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Orig to DCI by Mr. Helms a.m. Morning Mtg.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:	EXTENSION	NO.
Chief, Far East Division		DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
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2. E R – for file				
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